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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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ACOWX

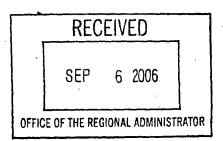
Superfund Records Center

46009 STHER:

August 31, 2006

Robert W. Varney, Regional Administrator Environmental Protection Agency One Congress Street, Suite 1100 Boston, MA 02114-2023

Dear Mr. Varney:



I am writing to you concerning the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to demolish the vacant Aerovox building located along the coast of the New Bedford Harbor that has a high concentration of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) and poses a serious, immediate health threat to residents of the greater area. I would like to thank the EPA for recognizing this threat and working diligently toward a cleanup that will address the environmental danger as soon as possible. Along with the Harbor cleanup, this is one more step in returning a traditional maritime area to its original condition.

However, I am concerned the agency's preferred cleanup option calls for the capping of demolition waste on-site within the basement of the Aerovox building. I remain unconvinced that the safeguarding of hazardous PCB's, even within a protective cover, will permanently protect the general public or harbor from this hazardous material and urge the EPA to remove as much waste as needed to bring this property to a level required for the determined reuse and public safety. Maintaining such a high concentration of PCB's in a residential area is only postponing a subsequent clean-up that will be more costly in the future.

Again, I urge the EPA to move forward with a cleanup option that will remove all demolition waste containing PCB's at the abandoned Aerovox building. I also request the EPA take every action necessary to immediately protect the public as this process moves forward and the agency looks to secure the needed funding to fully reimburse the city as they work to complete this cleanup to the required level and offer my assistance in any way you feel might be helpful.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to your response.

August 31, 2006 Page 2

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Sincerely,

BARNEY FRANK Member of Congress

BF/gpp

Reply: 558 Pleasant Street Room 309

New Bedford, MA 02740